

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	P'yongyang Food and Water Supply	DATE DISTR.	27 August 1955 25X1
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PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	25X1

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. [ ] when the Staple Food Control Ordinance was enacted, and 25X1  
cereal foods were scarce in P'yongyang.<sup>1</sup> A bread known as  
"Russian Bread," about 50 centimeters long and 10 centimeters thick, was put 25X1  
on sale for four hours weekly at 50 won per loaf. Four loaves was the maximum  
one could buy at a time. As many as seven or eight beggars a day went to homes  
and asked for food, but few citizens had food to spare and almsgiving was rare.<sup>2</sup>  
In early 1955, city authorities attempted to establish a camp for beggars; most  
of whom were disabled veterans, war orphans, and old men; but the camp was  
unsuccessful. [ ] there were no plans under consideration to 25X1  
alleviate the food shortage.<sup>3</sup>

2. Some food items still available on the market in May 1955 were:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>PRICE IN WON</u>
Apples	1 kilogram	180
Candy drops	1 package	50
Dried Cuttlefish	each	10
Fruit gruel	dish	180
Boiled beef	21.2 ounces	280
Boiled pork	21.2 ounces	290
Rice cake	each	10

3. Only government officials on official business trips were able to obtain food at inns. These officials had been issued food cards that authorized them to receive three meals per day, totalling 700 grams. Inn meals usually cost 70 won each; lodging cost 100 won per day.

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4. Dining rooms in government-operated department stores were open from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily and served meals of steamed rice and soup for 30 won. These meals were sold first to military personnel and secondly to public officials, both with food cards. Private restaurants were usually not allowed to serve rice to accompany side dishes. If restaurateurs were discovered selling rice acquired from illegal sources, they might have their restaurants closed by the government.
5. The P'yongyang water system was still being reconstructed; many water conduits had already been repaired. Piped water was available from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. Water was to be available during these hours until reconstruction was completed at an indefinite future date. The water supply in lower sections of the city was adequate; but higher areas, such as Sonsong-ni, had great difficulty in obtaining enough water.

1. Comment. P'yongyang Radio stated that "natural calamities" throughout North Korea had caused a decrease in agricultural yields. 25X1
2. Comment.  there were always between 300 to 400 beggars at the P'yongyang railroad station, and that eating in market places was impossible because food would be snatched from one's hand before it could be eaten. 25X1
3. Comment. P'yongyang Radio stated  that Cabinet Directive #21 was issued to insure food supplies for the urban population; grain ration coupons were to be issued monthly  25X1  
 P'yongyang Radio stated that the Soviet Union had begun large-scale shipments of foodstuffs into North Korea; 45,000 tons were to have arrived  Other available information indicates that the North Korean regime is strenuously attempting to improve the production of foodstuffs. The government offered  incentive payments of extra rations to those cooperatives which overfulfill their quotas in farming, livestock, and fruit production. North Korean propaganda has also stressed an increase in the fish catch. 25X1

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